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Media Analysis Report
North Carolina - Hurricane Matthew
DR-4285-NC

Tuesday March 27, 2018

Hot Issues:

- None

News Clips Analysis / Trends:

Hurricane Matthew coverage is moderate today. Spectrum News has a brief feature on the re-construction of the hurricane-damaged Oak Island Pier getting underway; federal funding for the project is referenced but FEMA is not mentioned by name. *The News Reporter* of Columbus has a story profiling a Whiteville furniture and home goods store that has not only reopened but expanded its business since it was heavily damaged by Hurricane Matthew. In a story reporting that U.S. Sen. Richard Burr will deliver the commencement address at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke's spring undergraduate ceremony, the paper notes he "was instrumental in funding and relief aid efforts in Robeson County in the wake of Hurricane Matthew." A column in the Fayetteville Observer examines the documentary short film 'Robeson Rises,' which depicts opposition to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and its links the disaster of Hurricane Matthew. Advocates fighting the pipeline say burning fossil fuels like those the pipeline would carry contribute to climate change and destructive weather events like Matthew. *Up and Coming Weekly* magazine has a story about the fish stocking planned for the restored Hope Mills Lake. Created by the repair of a dam that failed years ago and was being reconstructed during Hurricane Matthew, the report notes that officials waited until now to let the fish population stabilize after flooding caused by Matthew. The *Goldsboro Daily News* has a story about Wayne County commissioners working to adopt a new flood plain ordinance by June 20 to avoid a lapse in their NFIP status. FEMA mentions are neutral to positive.

(Use hyperlink below headline to see story on source website)

RECOVERY

Work continues on new Oak Island pier (Spectrum News)

By Spectrum News Staff

March 27, 2018

[Spectrum News](#)

OAK ISLAND, N.C. -- Work on the Oak Island pier continues on Tuesday morning.

The structure was damaged by Hurricane Matthew back in 2016 and is now being torn down to make way for a new one.

Officials say, in all, the project costs \$2.6 million.

A big portion of that is being paid for by federal and state funds.

This week, crews say they will be driving the pilings down.

"Once the new pilings are in place, then we start framing in between. Once we get partial framing in, then we start to demo what's there," said Andrew Law, TD Eure Marine Construction.

With the latest phase of construction, the public is being asked to stay away from the pier while large barricades are in place.

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Furniture Depot expands (The News Reporter)

by Sarah Crutchfield

March 25, 2018

[The News Reporter](#)

Almost a year and a half after the devastation of Hurricane Matthew, Furniture Depot has not only reopened but expanded its business. It is now offering home décor, ribbons, bows, and wreaths to its downtown Whiteville location.

Like most locations downtown, it suffered a huge loss after Matthew. "We had about 25 inches of water in here from front to back," owner Darian Ransom said, "We lost everything." The company persevered and reopened last year and is now looking toward the future.

"We started late fall last year. It was really a peak season so I didn't have time to do a grand opening because it was about survival," Ransom said.

Furniture Depot has everything from flags, wreaths, bows, and pillows. The staff can also do cemetery arrangements and saddles for headstones. "People can come in and purchase products already premade or we can do special orders," Cindy Fisher said.

The new business expansion has increased foot traffic to the store. "We were getting 10-15 people during my slow season. I am now getting more than 100 people on busy days," Ransom said.

Employees created the display in the windows using mostly reused and recycled items. There is a church and rabbit to celebrate the upcoming Easter holiday. The church was made out of furniture boxes, Ransom said. "There is

nothing on that church that was bought,” he said. “The rabbit is a 4-inch-wide foam that is glued together and then shaped and spray painted,” he said.

“We always put displays in there that we sell like the furniture and wreaths,” Fisher said, “We will have more windows in the future. We already have our ideas for summer and fall.”

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Burr to speak at UNCP spring commencement (The Daily Journal)

By: For the Daily Journal

March 26, 2018

[The Daily Journal \(Richmond County\)](#)

PEMBROKE — U.S. Sen. Richard Burr will deliver the commencement address at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke’s spring undergraduate ceremony.

The ceremony will be held on the south quad lawn on May 5.

Long-time UNCP nursing professor Dr. Cherry Maynor Beasley has been named the keynote speaker for the graduate ceremony on May 4. Beasley, the Belk Endowed Professor in Rural and Minority Health, is the recipient of the 2017 Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Burr, a Republican from Winston-Salem, was first elected to the U.S. House in 1994, where he served for 10 years before being elected to the Senate. He is currently serving in his third Senate term representing North Carolina.

Burr serves as chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. He is also a member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the Finance Committee.

Burr is a graduate of Wake Forest University and a recipient of the university’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

Dr. Jim Jones, chairman of the UNCP Board of Trustees, said Burr’s visit will shine a spotlight on the university.

“Anytime you get a national leader like Sen. Burr to come to campus, people start asking about the university and this gives us a chance to tell our story,” said Jones, a fellow Wake Forest grad.

“The board is enthusiastic and very pleased that Sen. Burr accepted (our) invitation and we look forward to a very successful graduation speech.”

Burr has been a friend of UNC Pembroke for many years, giving the commencement speech in 2005.

Burr will be introduced during the commencement by Lumbee Tribal Chairman Harvey Godwin Jr. The veteran senator has been a supporter of federal recognition for the Lumbee Tribe which was recognized by Congress in 1956, but was prevented eligibility to services that other federally recognized tribes receive.

He has introduced bills that would extend full recognition to the 65,000 member tribe. He has also testified before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee arguing that denying recognition is nothing short of discrimination.

Burr was instrumental in funding and relief aid efforts in Robeson County in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. He visited the county’s emergency operation and he and his wife, Brooke, met with storm victims at shelters set up at Purnell Swett High School and the Bill Sapp Recreation Center in Lumberton.

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Pitts: ‘Robeson Rises’ tells story of resistance to Atlantic Coast Pipeline (The Fayetteville Observer)

By Myron B. Pitts Staff writer

March 26, 2018

[The Fayetteville Observer](#)

Adrienne Kennedy never will forget when Hurricane Matthew struck in October of 2016.

She was eventually forced to abandon the home she owned in south Lumberton.

She remembers one day in particular.

On that day, she joined a woman who was stepping through cold, fast-moving waters to go after her trapped relatives, a cousin and aunt.

“She rolled up her pants, and I rolled up mine,” Kennedy says. “We locked arms and we went in there to the rescue.”

The woman happened to be of Lumbee descent. It was something that came to Kennedy’s mind about a year later when she found herself locking arms with other Robeson County residents trying to stop the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

“Who would have thought a year later I’m locking arms with Native Americans, the Lumbee Indians,” she says, “on a similar fight. That was just one time I didn’t see color. I see just or unjust.”

Kennedy is one of several people interviewed in the new, short documentary, “Robeson Rises.” It chronicles the fight of environmental activists against a natural gas pipeline that Virginia-based Dominion Energy wants to start in West Virginia and run 600 miles through Virginia and North Carolina. The pipeline is designated to run through eight counties in North Carolina and end in Robeson. Duke Energy and Southern Company Gas are co-investors in the project.

“Robeson Rises” premiered last week at the Carolina Civic Center in Lumberton and was co-sponsored by EcoRobeson, Appalachian Voices and Working Films, the company that produced the film. A discussion followed.

Another screening is set for April 5 at Fayetteville State University, at 3:45 p.m., at the Butler Building, room 362. There is no admission fee. The documentary also can be viewed at robesonrises.com.

The film runs just under 20 minutes and opens with frames of Robeson County at sunrise. Words on a black screen read: “Together We Rise.”

The Rev. Mac Legerton, a founder of the environmental group EcoRobeson, is heard in the voiceover describing Robeson as the most racially diverse rural county in the country, and also one of the country’s poorest.

“In 2016, we were faced with two major disasters,” Legerton says in the movie. “The coming of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline and also Hurricane Matthew.”

The companies building the pipeline say it will bring jobs and economic development in the communities through which it runs. A website for the project says “new supplies of cleaner-burning natural gas will help lower emissions and improve air quality.”

But opponents say the pipeline is unneeded and raises the risk of spills that would release methane, affecting people’s health and harming ecosystems; the documentary shows methane spills and explosions in Alaska, California, Oregon and Texas.

Ryan Emanuel, an environmental scientist who calls Robeson home, said: “The problem when it comes to catastrophic explosion is that even though the probability of an event is very small, when they do happen they have major impacts in terms of loss of property or loss of life.”

EcoRobeson activists say the pipeline will create just 18 permanent jobs, and the energy companies will have to exercise eminent domain to take away land that has been in some families for generations.

Bradley Bethel, producer of “Robeson Rises,” is an Ohio native who admits he had not even heard of Robeson County before he started working with director Michael Pogoloff on the movie.

Now he says of Robeson residents: “Their resilience is inspiring. One of the most intriguing and inspiring aspects for me is the way diverse parts of Robeson County have come together against the pipeline.”

Kennedy says she never intended to be an activist. One of her best friends invited her to a meeting of EcoRobeson, and Kennedy says she started to research more about environmental issues, including how climate change relates to natural disasters.

Flooding destroyed most of her home and she lived for a time in a Super 8 hotel. She now lives in Cumberland County. She embraces the description of herself from the documentary as a “climate refugee.”

To Kennedy, organizing to stop the pipeline only made sense with her new awareness.

Workers have begun clearing land to make way for the pipeline in Northampton and Robeson counties, according to a report by National Public Radio.

But Kennedy says Robeson County folks are not easily defeated.

“I am way optimistic,” she says. “I’m way hopeful. I’ve been in Robeson County long enough to know we just have to sit down and scrutinize this project long enough to know we really all do disagree with it. We all have the same paperwork. We’re just reading different pages of it. I’m optimistic.”

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Fish population returning to Hope Mills Lake (Up and Coming Weekly)

Written by EARL VAUGHAN JR.

March 20, 2018

Up and Coming Weekly

The last time the restored Hope Mills Lake was restocked with fish, there was a miscommunication between the town and state wildlife officials. The result was the lake was drained after new fish had been put in, causing them to be lost.

Rod MacLean wanted to make sure that mistake wasn't repeated when the restocking process started for the recently restored lake

MacLean is currently the chairman of the Hope Mills Lake Advisory Committee and has been serving on it for the last four or five years.

A dedicated fly fisherman, MacLean has worked as a volunteer for North Carolina Wildlife for close to 10 years and is active in the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program.

MacLean said he spoke with Hope Mills mayor Jackie Warner three years ago and assured her that when the time came to bring fish back into the lake, he would make sure there were no mistakes.

"I told her I would take care of getting them delivered and what types of fish," he said.

MacLean researched the types of fish people used to catch from the lake, and he also consulted with a biologist from the North Carolina Wildlife Commission about what fish would be best to introduce.

Earlier this month, MacLean said 10,000 redear panfish and 10,000 bluegill panfish were put into the lake. At some time in the future, some 1,000 fingerling catfish and another 1,000 fingerling largemouth bass will be added to the population.

MacLean said the small panfish, the bluegills and redears, are introduced first so they can become established. "These are the fish the predators will eat, the largemouth bass and the catfish," he said.

MacLean said it's likely that the new bass and catfish that will be introduced later are already present in the lake. He said that's because of what happened in this area when Hurricane Matthew struck.

There was a lot of flooding associated with Matthew, he said, some of it involving Lake Rim, which flooded and overflowed. Those waters wound up in some six ponds at the John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center.

"They went into the creek that ends up coming through Hope Mills, down Rockfish Creek and into the Cape Fear River and on to Wilmington," he said. "Some of the fish have been in the creek from Matthew, and some got washed all the way down through Hope Mills."

After about three years to allow the fish population in the Hope Mills Lake to stabilize, MacLean said officials from North Carolina Wildlife will do a census of the fish in the lake. "They've got a specialized boat that has electrodes coming off it," he said. "They'll go around to certain areas of the lake and put out an electrical shock that stuns the fish."

The fish then float to the surface and are caught with nets, measured and sometimes tagged, he said. A few fish may have to be kept in order to verify their age, but the majority of the fish will be returned to the water.

Until the fish population is stable, MacLean said, the lake will observe a catch and release policy. He said after two or three years, the population should be stable and the fish should reach a size making them worth catching and keeping. "You don't want to catch 15 sardine-sized fish," he said. "Then we'll harvest them according to North Carolina wildlife rules."

MacLean said the lake is also likely to attract eels from the creeks, but the dam is equipped with an eel ladder that will allow them to escape and head downstream.

MacLean said he'd discussed the idea of putting a special breed of carp in the lake to help keep the vegetation down. This particular carp is a possible choice because it is sexless and can't reproduce. But he said since in some cases the carp do reproduce and they would be able to escape from the lake and go downstream, it was decided not to introduce them.

"We discussed different species from the knowledge of the biologist and this is what will be best for our particular location," he said. "I'm quite happy with the decision."

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NFIP/FLOOD MAPS

County Looks At New Flood Ordinance, Maps (Goldsboro Daily News)

By Ken Conners

March 27, 2018

[Goldsboro Daily News](#)

Wayne County is looking at new flood maps and a new flood ordinance.

FEMA revised the county's flood maps, and they're due to go into effect June 20th. Assistant County Manager Chip Crumpler told the Wayne County Commissioners last week a proposed flood ordinance would also need to be adopted otherwise citizens will lose access to flood insurance.

Crumpler says there are some changes to FEMA's flood maps for Wayne County. He says Wayne County has always had a good rating for flood insurance, and the new ordinance takes steps to help retain that rating and the resulting flood insurance discounts.

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners would have to schedule a public hearing before the proposed flood ordinance could be approved.

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